

additions
Comments

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Your Coming Decade of

In an article discussing various effects of science on our way of life, Ubell, the science editor of the NEW YORK HERALD TRIBUNE, devotes some space to the smoking health question

Year by year, evidence accumulates that cigarette smoking is a cause of lung cancer, possibly a trigger for heart attacks and even involves other vascular diseases

Considering several statistical studies, Ubell asks, "Does enough evidence exist to suggest to me that I stop smoking?"

In my opinion, the answer is yes. In the next decade I expect scientists to resolve unequivocally the mystery surrounding cigarette smoking. Perhaps a 'safe' cigarette will be produced. There is already a suggestion that high doses of certain vitamins can reduce the blood vessel effects of smoking. It is by no means proved.

It is proved. A prudent person will stop smoking.

Acco, Golf and Bourbon " Editorial, GP, the monthly medical journal of American Academy of General Practice, November, 1960

The editorial deals with the statement, "Every cigarette smoker will die of lung cancer if he doesn't die of something else first," attributed to "authorities."

This is the kind of statement that causes chaos and confusion," says the editorial. "But like so many 'impact' statements, it's absolutely meaningless. Even if you don't smoke you'll die of lung cancer if you don't die of something else first. -It's just as factual (and meaningful) to say that anyone who plays golf will die of syphilis if he doesn't die of something else first

"We're all for intelligent debate, but let's keep it in the realm of reason," the editorial concludes

The first paragraph of the editorial says, "These pages have scrupulously avoided the cigarettes and lung-cancer controversies. I have perused many reports but stayed out of the main arena"

NEWSPAPERS

50. "Lung Cancer Victim Wins Damage Suit; Appeal Filed." EL PASO (Texas) TIMES,
December 7, 1960

The story reports a U.S. District Court award of \$14,038 in damages to a former refinery worker who charged that gasoline fumes brought on his lung cancer. The defense (Maryland Casualty Company) has appealed to the Fifth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

"Should the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals reverse the present ruling, it would in effect tacitly agree with the insurance company's contention that cigaret smoking -- and not gas fumes -- may have brought on Fowler's lung cancer." Such a ruling, said the paper, "would be the first judicial decision in the U.S. linking cigaret smoking and lung cancer."

NOTE

The MAGAZINE INDUSTRY NEWSLETTER reports that Francis Bello, a senior editor of FORTUNE Magazine, has joined the board of editors of SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN. Mr. Bello was preparing a FORTUNE article on smoking and health, which has been postponed.

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